Family Connection Grant Project
Abstract/Summary

Grantee Name: Edgewood Center for Children and Families
Grantee City and State: San Francisco, CA
Grant Project Title: Kinship Support Network Navigator Program
Family Connection Program Area: Kinship Navigator

Summary of Grant Project

Edgewood Center for Children and Families proposes to expand our nationally recognized Kinship Support Network (KSN) by implementing the Kinship Support Network Navigator Program (KSNNP), a three-year demonstration project to test the effectiveness of an innovative kinship navigator program serving the entire State of California.

Objectives of the Project: Overall project goals are to (1) Implement a kinship navigator program for California kinship families that is staffed and directed by kin caregivers and that will be sustained and serve as a national model; (2) Evaluate and document KSNNP’s implementation with formative process and summative outcomes evaluations; and (3) Support the replication of KSNNP in California and nationally through dissemination of a Policy and Procedures manual and other informational methods. Project objectives by Year Three are: (1) To have served a minimum of 3,000 kinship families; (2) To reduce the needs of at least 80% of kinship families. (3) To increase the capacity of at least 80% of caregivers to meet their children’s needs; and (4) To prevent removal or re-entry to foster care for 90% of children.

Approach to be Used: KSNNP will build upon Edgewood’s KSN and a statewide network of Kinship Support Services Programs (KSSP), established by legislation in 1997 placing kin caregiver/navigators at four KSSP sites to answer calls to an “888” toll free warm line. Navigators will triage callers’ needs and refer to services as jointly determined with the calling family member, collect needs and demographic data and advocate on behalf of kin families.

Results/Benefits Expected: Navigator services will be provided to a minimum of 3,000 families. The project will be evaluated both quantitatively and qualitatively comparing six service models. Edgewood will produce a Policy and Procedures Replication Manual with a detailed training curriculum, disseminate findings and offer technical assistance to support replication nationwide.

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